

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An airbag apparatus comprising:
 - an airbag having an inner bag and an outer bag;
 - a gas generator configured to supply gas to the inner bag, wherein the inner bag includes an opening to allow gas to exit the inner bag to inflate the outer bag;
 - wherein the outer bag includes a vent hole;
 - wherein the vent hole includes a mechanism for maintaining the vent hole closed until the pressure of the gas in the outer bag reaches a predetermined level; and
 - wherein the vent hole is positioned so that gas escapes from the vent hole out of the outer bag and through a retainer for holding the gas generator.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cover connected to the retainer for covering the airbag in a folded condition, wherein the cover is pushed open by the inflation of the inner bag.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mechanism includes a lid mounted to the retainer and the outerbag.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the lid includes a frangible portion that breaks when the pressure in the outer bag reaches a predetermined level to allow gas to escape out of the outer bag.
5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the closing mechanism includes a gasket between the lid and the retainer.

6. An airbag module for protecting the occupant of a vehicle, comprising an airbag including inner and outer bags and a retainer to which one of the bags is connected; wherein the outer bag includes a vent hole positioned to allow an inflation gas to escape the outer bag through the retainer when the pressure in the outer bag reaches a predetermined level.
7. The module of claim 6, further comprising a mechanism for maintaining the vent hole closed until the pressure in the outer bag reaches a predetermined level.
8. The module of claim 7, wherein the mechanism includes a sheet covering a plurality of holes in the retainer.
9. The module of claim 8, wherein the sheet is configured to break when the pressure in the outer bag reaches a predetermined level.
10. The module of claim 6, wherein retainer is connected to a module cover that is configured to break when the pressure in the inner bag reaches a predetermined level.
11. The module of claim 8, wherein the sheet is connected to the retainer by an adhesive.